

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7138

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2694

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, US, IN

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR KAUL'S STATEMENT

ON ARMS POLICY

REF: NEW DELHI 2642

1. WHEN THE FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLED ME IN ON FEBRUARY 26 TO INFORM ME OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S DECISION NOT TO VISIT WASHINGTON HE SAID THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER "INCIDENTAL" MATTER WHICH HE WISHED TO MENTION TO ME. HE SAID THAT TEJA, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, HAD INFORMED HIM THAT I HAD EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND DISMAY AT AMBASSADOR KAUL'S STATEMENT ON US SOUTH ASIAN ARMS SUPPLY POLICY. KEWAL SINGH EXPLAINED THAT ALL HE COULD SAY WAS THAT HE HAD BEEN CONVEYING TO ME IN OUR DISCUSSIONS THE SAME REASONING AND EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET THAT AMBASSADOR KAUL HAD SET FORTH IN WASHINGTON. WHAT AMBASSADOR KAUL HAD SAID IN A MOST FORTHRIGHT MANNER WAS WHAT WE ALL FELT." KAUL HAD WORKED SO HARD FOR THE OBJECTIVE OF SEEING INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS DEVELOP TOWARD THE BEST POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDING THAT HE HAD MUCH MORE REASON TO FEEL DISAPPOINTED AND THEREFORE TO EXPRESS HIMSELF STRONGLY IN PUBLIC.

2. I REVIEWED BRIEFLY WITH KEWAL SINGH OUR REASONS FOR TAKING EXCEPTION TO KAUL'S STATEMENT AND ASCERTAINED THAT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY HAD SEEN THE SECRETARY'S COMMENT ON THIS SUBJECT MADE DURING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE. I THEN CALLED ATTENTION TO THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT AND

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EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THESE REMARKS TAKEN TOGETHER COULD LEAD

THE WAY TO THE RESUMPTION OF THE PROCESS OF IMPROVING OUR
RELATIONS.

3. COMMENT. MY HOPE DIDN'T LAST LONG, HOWEVER, AS THE FOREIGN
SECRETARY THEN PROCEEDED TO INFORM ME THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER
WOULD NOT VISIT WASHINGTON AS PLANNED (SEPTTEL). IN REGARD TO
KAUL'S STATEMENT, KEWAL SINGH DIDN'T SEEM TO BE TAKING ISSUE
WITH OUR FINDING IT INTEMPERATE. RATHER HE SEEMED TO BE TRYING
TO EXPLAIN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH PROMPTED KAUL TO MAKE IT.
END COMMENT.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE02694
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750067-0893
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750211/aaaaajkh.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 NEW DELHI 2642
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR KAUL'S STATEMENT ON ARMS POLICY
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, US, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006